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<p>(54) Title: METHODS FOR DECREASING BETA AMYLOID PROTEIN</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>Blood cholesterol levels are correlated with production of amyloid β protein ((A)β), and are predictors of populations at risk of developing AD. Methods for lowering blood cholesterol levels can be used to decrease production of Aβ, thereby decreasing the risk of developing AD. The same methods and compositions can also be used for treating individuals diagnosed with AD. Methods include administration of compounds which increase uptake of cholesterol by the liver, such as the administration of HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, administration of compounds which block endogenous cholesterol production, such as the administration of HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, administration of compositions which prevent uptake of dietary cholesterol, and administration of combinations of any of these which are effective to lower blood cholesterol levels. Methods have also been developed to predict populations at risk, based on the role of cholesterol in production of Aβ. For example, individuals with Apo E4 and high cholesterol, defined as a blood cholesterol level of greater than 200 mg/dl, post menopausal women with high cholesterol levels – especially those who are not taking estrogen, or individuals with high blood cholesterol levels who are not obese are all at risk of developing AD if blood cholesterol levels are not decreased.</p>			

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METHODS FOR DECREASING BETA AMYLOID PROTEIN

Background of the Invention

The United States government has certain rights in this invention by
5 virtue of National Institutes of Health grant number RO1NS33325 to Bruce A.
Yankner.

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia in the
aged population. The accumulation of large numbers of senile plaques
containing the 40-42 amino acid amyloid β protein (A β) is a classic pathological
10 feature of AD. Both genetic and cell biological findings suggest that the
accumulation of A β in the brain is the likely cause of AD (Yankner, B.A. (1996)
Neuron 16, 921-932.; Selkoe, D.J. Science 275, 630-631 (1997)). Strong
genetic evidence in support of the pathogenic role of A β came from the
observation that individuals who inherit mutations in the amyloid precursor
15 protein almost invariably develop AD at an early age. These mutations increase
the production of a long variant of the A β peptide that forms senile plaques in
the brain (Goate et al., (1991) Nature 349, 704-706). Mutations and allelic
. variations in other genes that cause AD, including the presenilins and
apolipoprotein E, also result in increased production or deposition of the A β
20 peptide. Reiman, et al. (1996) N.E.J.Med. 334, 752-758, reported that in middle
age, early to mid 50's, individuals who are homozygous for the Apo E4 gene
have reduced glucose metabolism in the same regions of the brain as in patients
with Alzheimer's disease. These findings suggest that the pathological changes
in the brain associated with this gene start early. Furthermore, individuals with
25 Down's syndrome overexpress the amyloid precursor protein, develop A β
deposits in the brain at an early age, and develop Alzheimer's disease at an early
age. Finally, the A β protein has been demonstrated to be highly toxic to nerve

cells. Thus, it is widely believed that drugs which decrease the levels of A β in the brain would prevent Alzheimer's disease.

The known genetic causes of AD can account for only a small proportion of the total number of cases of AD. Most cases of AD are sporadic and occur in 5 the aged population. A major goal of research is the identification of environmental factors that predispose to AD that would be amenable to therapeutic measures.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide methods for predicting populations at risk of developing AD.

10 It is another object of the present invention to provide diagnostics and pharmaceuticals to decrease the production of amyloid β protein (A β), and thereby to prevent or reduce the likelihood of developing AD.

15 It is a further object of the present invention to provide pharmaceutical treatments to treat AD in patients' having the neuropsychiatric or diagnostic criteria for AD.

Summary of the Invention

Blood cholesterol levels are correlated with production of amyloid β protein (A β), and are predictors of populations at risk of developing AD.

20 Methods for lowering blood cholesterol levels can be used to decrease production of A β , thereby decreasing the risk of developing AD. The same methods and compositions can also be used for treating individuals diagnosed with AD. Methods include administration of compounds which increase uptake of cholesterol by the liver, such as the administration of HMG CoA reductase 25 inhibitors, administration of compounds which block endogenous cholesterol production, such as administration of HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, administration of compositions which prevent uptake of dietary cholesterol, and administration of combinations of any of these which are effective to lower

blood cholesterol levels. Methods have also been developed to predict populations at risk, based on the role of cholesterol in production of A β . For example, individuals with Apo E4 and high cholesterol, defined as a blood cholesterol level of greater than 200 mg/dl, post menopausal women with high cholesterol levels - especially those who are not taking estrogen, or individuals which high blood cholesterol levels who are not obese are all at risk of developing AD if blood cholesterol levels are not decreased. In the preferred embodiment, individuals with these risk factors are treated to lower blood cholesterol levels prior to developing any mental impairment attributable to AD, 5 based on accepted neuropsychiatric and diagnostic criteria in clinical practice. Treatment is based on administration of one or more compositions effective to lower cholesterol blood levels at least 10%, which is believed to be sufficient to 10 decrease production of A β .

Diagnostic kits based on the discovery of these risk factors include 15 reagents for measurement of cholesterol, total lipoproteins, and/or Apo E4.

The examples demonstrate the use of HMG CoA reductase inhibitors to treat Alzheimer's disease. Rats fed a high cholesterol diet show increased levels of the Alzheimer's disease A β protein in the brain. Cholesterol has been shown to increase the amount of A β in human neurons in culture. The HMG CoA 20 reductase inhibitors reduce cholesterol production. Several different HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, including lovastatin, simvastatin, fluvastatin, pravastatin and compactin, significantly inhibit the level of A β production in human neuronal cultures.

Detailed Description of the Invention

25 I. Methods for Predicting Populations at Risk for AD

Individuals at increased risk for A β accumulation and Alzheimer's disease are those who carry a copy of the apolipoprotein E4 gene (Strittmatter et al., (1993) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 90, 1977-1981), those with trisomy 21

(Down's syndrome) (Mann and Esiri, (1989) *J. Neurol. Sci.* 89, 169-179)), and individuals who carry a mutation in one of the genes that encode the amyloid precursor protein, presenilin-1 or presenilin-2 (reviewed in Yankner, 1996). In addition, individuals with a family history of Alzheimer's disease have been 5 documented to be at increased risk of Alzheimer's disease (Farrer et al., (1989) *Ann. Neurol.* 25, 485-492; van Duijn et al., (1991) *Int. J. Epidemiol.* 20 (suppl 2), S13-S20), and could therefore benefit from prophylactic treatment with an HMG CoA reductase inhibitor.

Methods have also been developed to predict populations at risk, based 10 on the role of cholesterol in production of A β . Several risk factors for developing AD have been identified. These include:

- (1) individuals with Apo E4 and high cholesterol, defined as a blood cholesterol level of greater than 200 mg/dl,
- (2) post menopausal women with high cholesterol, especially those who 15 are not taking estrogen,
- (3) young individuals with high blood cholesterol levels who are not obese (age 48-65 yrs),
- (4) individuals with high blood cholesterol levels who have a family history of AD,
- 20 (5) individuals with high blood cholesterol levels who have a family history of AD, and
- (6) all adult individuals with Down's syndrome.

These individuals are all at risk of developing AD if blood cholesterol levels are not decreased. In the preferred embodiment, individuals with these 25 risk factors are treated to lower blood cholesterol levels prior to developing any mental impairment attributable to AD using accepted neuropsychiatric and diagnostic criteria for probable Alzheimer's disease (McKhann et al. (1984) *Neurology* 34:939-944).

Individuals can be screened using standard blood tests for cholesterol,

ApoE4, and/or total lipoprotein levels, as well as by taking a medical and family history. In addition, over the counter immunoassay tests can be used by individuals who may be at risk, so that they can seek further medical advise. These immunoassay kits can be qualitative and/or quantitative for elevated cholesterol, total lipoproteins, and Apo E4.

5 **II. Methods of Treatment to Decrease Production of A β .**

Methods for lowering blood cholesterol levels can be used to decrease production of A β , thereby decreasing the risk of developing AD. The same methods can also be used to treat patients who have already been diagnosed with 10 AD. Methods include administration of compounds which increase uptake of cholesterol by the liver, such as the administration of HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, administration of compounds which block endogenous cholesterol production, such as administration of HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, administration of compositions which prevent uptake of dietary cholesterol, and 15 administration of combinations of any of these which are effective to lower blood cholesterol levels.

The examples indicate that several different HMG CoA reductase inhibitors reduce the production of A β . HMG CoA reductase inhibitors may act to lower cholesterol at several different levels. For example, HMG CoA 20 reductase inhibitors have been shown to lower blood cholesterol levels by upregulating lipoprotein clearance receptors in the liver (Brown and Goldstein, 1986) Science 232, 34-47). In addition, HMG CoA reductase inhibitors will directly inhibit cholesterol synthesis in neurons. Since every HMG CoA reductase inhibitor tested reduces A β production, it is anticipated that new 25 members of this class of drugs will also inhibit A β production. Furthermore, since increased dietary cholesterol increases A β in the brain, drugs which act through other mechanisms to reduce cholesterol will also inhibit A β production.

Representative CoA reductase inhibitors include the statins, including

lovastatin, simvastatin, compactin, fluvastatin, atorvastatin, cerivastatin, and pravastatin. These are typically administered orally.

Compounds which inhibit cholesterol biosynthetic enzymes, including 2,3-oxidosqualene cyclase, squalene synthase, and 7-dehydrocholesterol 5 reductase, can also be used.

Representative compositions which decrease uptake of dietary cholesterol include the bile acid binding resins (cholestyramine and colestipol) and the fibrates (clofibrate). Probucol, nicotinic acid, garlic and garlic derivatives, and psyllium are also used to lower blood cholesterol levels.

10 Probucol and the fibrates increase the metabolism of cholesterol-containing lipoproteins. The cholesterol-lowering mechanism of nicotinic acid is not understood.

15 Although the preferential route of administration of HMG CoA reductase inhibitors would be oral, the drugs could also be administered by intravenous, subcutaneous or intramuscular routes. In some cases, direct administration into the cerebrospinal fluid may be efficacious.

III. Examples

Prior to the studies described in the following examples, the relationship 20 between cholesterol and A β levels in the brain was unknown. In one study, rabbits which were fed a high cholesterol diet showed increased immunocytochemical staining of brain neurons with an antibody to A β . However, this antibody was not specific for A β , and could cross-react with other metabolites of the amyloid precursor protein (Sparks, D.L. (1996) Neurobiology 25 of Aging. 17, 291-299). The studies in the following examples demonstrate that: rats fed a high cholesterol diet show increased levels of the Alzheimer's disease A β protein in the brain; cholesterol increases the amount of A β in human neurons in culture; HMG CoA reductase inhibitors reduce cholesterol production; and several different HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, including lovastatin, simvastatin, fluvastatin, pravastatin and compactin, significantly

inhibit the level of A β production in human neuronal cultures.

Example 1: Cholesterol increases the level of A β in human neuronal cultures.

Busciglio et al., (1993) Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 90, 2092-2096, described the production of A β by human cortical neurons in culture. To determine whether cholesterol can affect the production of A β , primary human brain cultures were established from the cortex of 16-20 week fetal abortuses, and the neurons incubated in the absence or presence of very low density lipoprotein (VLDL), low density lipoprotein (LDL) or high density lipoprotein (HDL) particles isolated from human plasma. These lipoprotein particles are the physiological vehicles for the transport of cholesterol to cells. The effects of the different lipoprotein particles on the levels of A β in the human cortical cultures was determined. The human cortical cultures were maintained in serum-free Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) with N2 supplements (a serum-free supplement that supports neuronal viability). The medium was then changed to the same medium (controls) or medium supplemented with VLDL, LDL, or HDL particles. After incubation for 48-72 hours, A β was measured by immunoprecipitation of the culture medium with a polyclonal antibody to A β (B12), followed by Western blotting with a monoclonal antibody to A β (6E10). The Western blots were developed either by the enhanced chemiluminescence method or by addition of an 125 I-labeled secondary antibody and phosphorimager scanning. The bands corresponding to the 40 and 42 amino acid form of A β were analyzed quantitatively using a computer software program. Control human cortical cultures produced basal levels of A β . Exposure of the human cortical cultures to VLDL, LDL or HDL particles increased the levels of both the 40 and 42 amino forms of A β . These results suggest that the major classes of cholesterol-containing lipoproteins all act to increase production of A β in human neurons.

It was then determined whether lipoprotein particles containing apolipoproteins E or A1 were able to increase A β production. To address this question, synthetic lipoprotein particles containing these proteins were created. Particles containing either apolipoprotein E or A1 increased the level of A β in 5 the human cortical cultures.

These results indicate that a variety of different cholesterol carrying lipoprotein particles can increase the production of A β in primary human neuronal cultures.

Example 2: Dietary cholesterol increases A β levels in the brain.

10 After establishing that cholesterol-carrying lipoprotein particles increase A β in cultures of human neurons, it was determined whether dietary cholesterol increases the level of A β in the brain *in vivo*. Increased dietary intake of cholesterol is known to increase circulating levels of lipoprotein particles, which in turn increases the delivery of cholesterol to cells. These experiments were 15 performed on 20 month old rats. The rats were fed a low cholesterol diet (0.1% cholesterol) or a high cholesterol diet (5% cholesterol). After 10 weeks, the animals were sacrificed and the cortex was removed for measurement of A β levels. A β was assayed by immunoprecipitating cortical homogenates with the A β antibody B12, followed by Western blotting with the commercially available 20 A β monoclonal antibody 4G8.

Resolution of the A β isolated from rat cerebral cortex by electrophoretic separation on gels showed that A β levels were significantly increased by about 50% in the group of rats fed the high cholesterol diet relative to the group of rats fed the low cholesterol diet. These findings indicate that dietary cholesterol 25 increases the amount of A β in the brain. It is noteworthy that the approximately 50% increase in A β in the brain induced by a high cholesterol diet is similar to the increase in A β which occurs in Down's syndrome, which is known to predispose to the development of Alzheimer's disease.

Example 3: HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors Inhibit the Production of A_β by Human Neurons.

The HMG CoA reductase inhibitors have been used in humans to decrease plasma levels of cholesterol in patients at risk for heart disease. The 5 discovery that cholesterol increases the amount of A_β in the brain led to this investigation to determine whether the HMG CoA reductase inhibitors may be therapeutically efficacious for Alzheimer's disease by inhibiting the production of A_β. Human cortical neuronal cultures were established from 18 weeks gestation normal fetal cortical tissue as described above and maintained in a 10 culture medium comprised of DMEM containing N2 supplements. After one week, the culture medium was changed to DMEM + N2 supplements (control), or DMEM + N2 supplements + either 100 µM lovastatin, 100 µM simvastatin, 100 µM compactin, 100 µM fluvastatin, or 1 mM pravastatin. after incubation for 48 hours, the cultured cells were harvested and the levels of A_β were 15 assayed, as described above.

A_β was isolated from the culture medium from human cortical neuronal cultures and resolved by electrophoresis in gels. These results demonstrate that human neurons treated with either lovastatin, simvastatin, compactin, fluvastatin or pravastatin have significantly decreased levels of A_β relative to controls. 20 These results indicate that HMG CoA reductase inhibitors decrease the production of A_β by human neurons.

The finding that HMG CoA reductase inhibitors inhibit A_β production by human cortical cells supports the use of this class of drugs for reducing the levels of A_β in individuals with Alzheimer's disease or at risk of developing 25 Alzheimer's disease.

We claim:

1. A method for decreasing the production of A β comprising administering a composition which decreases blood cholesterol levels to a person with elevated cholesterol levels who is at risk of, or exhibits the symptoms of, Alzheimer's disease.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition is an HMG CoA reductase inhibitor.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, simvastatin, fluvastatin, pravastatin, atorvastatin, cerivastatin, and compactin.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition inhibits uptake of dietary cholesterol.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the composition blocks or decreases endogenous cholesterol production.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein composition increases cholesterol metabolism or clearance.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the person carries the apolipoprotein E4 gene.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the person has trisomy 21 (Down's syndrome).
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the person carries one or more mutations in the genes that encode amyloid β protein, amyloid precursor protein, presenilin-1 or presenilin-2.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the person has a family history of Alzheimer's disease or dementing illness.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the person is a post menopausal woman with high cholesterol.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the person has high blood cholesterol levels who is not obese.
13. The method of claim 1 wherein the person is between 48-65 years of age.
14. A method for predicting if a person is at risk of developing Alzheimer's Disease comprising
determining if they have elevated blood levels of cholesterol.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the level is 200 mg/dl or greater.
16. The method of claim 14 further comprising determining if the person carries the apolipoprotein E4 gene.
17. The method of claim 14 further comprising determining if the person has trisomy 21 (Down's syndrome).
18. The method of claim 14 further comprising determining if the person carries one or more mutations in the genes that encode amyloid β protein, amyloid precursor protein, presenilin-1 or presenilin-2.
19. The method of claim 14 further comprising determining if the person has a family history of Alzheimer's disease or dementing illness.
20. The method of claim 14 further comprising determining if the person is a post menopausal woman with high cholesterol.
21. A kit for determining if a person is at risk of developing Alzheimer's disease comprising reagents for determining if the blood cholesterol level is in excess of 200 mg/dl.
22. The kit of claim 21 further comprising reagents for determining at least one of the factors selected from the group consisting of the apolipoprotein E4 gene or its product, amyloid β protein, amyloid precursor protein, presenilin-1, and presenilin-2.
23. A composition for decreasing the production of A β comprising an effective amount of a compound to decrease blood cholesterol levels.
24. The composition of claim 23 comprising an HMG CoA reductase inhibitor.

25. The composition of claim 24 wherein the inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, simvastatin, fluvastatin, pravastatin, atorvastatin, cerivastatin, and compactin.
26. The composition of claim 23 comprising a compound which inhibits uptake of dietary cholesterol.
27. The composition of claim 23 wherein the composition blocks or decreases endogenous cholesterol production.
28. The composition of claim 27 wherein the composition comprises an inhibitor of the cholesterol biosynthetic enzymes selected from the group consisting of 2,3-oxidosqualene cyclase, squalene synthase, and 7-dehydrocholesterol reductase.
29. The composition of claim 23 wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of a fibrate, a bile acid binding resin, probucol, nicotinic acid, garlic or garlic derivative, and psyllium.

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(72) Inventors: YANKNER, Bruce, A.; 299 Prince Street, West Newton, MA 02165 (US). NADEAU, Philip; 38 St. Germain Street #1, Boston, MA 02115 (US).			
(74) Agent: PABST, Patre, L.; Arnall Golden & Gregory, LLP, 2800 One Atlantic Center, 1201 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30309-3450 (US).			

(54) Title: METHODS FOR DECREASING BETA AMYLOID PROTEIN

(57) Abstract

Blood cholesterol levels are correlated with production of amyloid β protein ((A) β), and are predictors of populations at risk of developing AD. Methods for lowering blood cholesterol levels can be used to decrease production of A β , thereby decreasing the risk of developing AD. The same methods and compositions can also be used for treating individuals diagnosed with AD. Methods include administration of compounds which increase uptake of cholesterol by the liver, such as the administration of HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, administration of compounds which block endogenous cholesterol production, such as the administration of HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, administration of compositions which prevent uptake of dietary cholesterol, and administration of combinations of any of these which are effective to lower blood cholesterol levels. Methods have also been developed to predict populations at risk, based on the role of cholesterol in production of A β . For example, individuals with Apo E4 and high cholesterol, defined as a blood cholesterol level of greater than 200 mg/dl, post menopausal women with high cholesterol levels – especially those who are not taking estrogen, or individuals with high blood cholesterol levels who are not obese are all at risk of developing AD if blood cholesterol levels are not decreased.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 A61K31/00 A61K31/44 A61K31/40 A61K31/22 A61K31/365		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 6 A61K		
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
T	E.R. FREARS ET AL.: "The role of cholesterol in the biosynthesis of beta-amyloid" NEUROREPORT, vol. 10, no. 8, June 1999 (1999-06), pages 1699-1705, XP002117061 the whole document ---	1-3,5, 7-25,27
E	WO 99 38498 A (WARNER LAMBERT CO ;BISGAIER CHARLES LARRY (US); EMMERLING MARK RIC) 5 August 1999 (1999-08-05) the whole document ---	1-3,5, 7-25,27 -/-
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 30 September 1999		Date of mailing of the international search report 03.04.00
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 99 15159 A (NOVA MOLECULAR INC) 1 April 1999 (1999-04-01). abstract page 2, line 22 -page 5, line 14 page 14, line 13 - line 25; claims 1,4-6,12,18,20; example 2 ---	1-3,5, 7-25,27
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 99/06396

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
See FURTHER INFORMATION SHEET PCT/ISA/210
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1(part.), 2, 3, 5(part.), 7-13(all part.), 14-22, 23(part.), 24, 25, 27(part)
2. Claims: 1(part.), 4, 7-13(all part.), 23(part.), 26, 29(part.)
3. Claims: 1(part.), 5(part.), 7-13(all part.), 23(part.), 27(part.), 28
4. Claims: 1(part.), 6, 7-13(all part.), 23(part.), 29(part.)
5. Claims: 1(part.), 7-13(all part.), 23(part.), 29(part.)

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1(part.), 2, 3, 5(part.), 7-13(all part.), 14-22, 23(part.), 24, 25, 27(part.)

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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International Application No. PCT/ US 99/06396

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box 3.

Although claims 1-13 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.

Further defect(s) under Article 17(2)(a):

Continuation of Box 3.

Present claims 1,2,23,24 relate to a compound defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely "compound which decreases blood cholesterol levels" or "HMG CoA reductase inhibitor".

The claims cover all compounds having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such compounds. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the compound by reference to a pharmacological profile or mode of action. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be clear, supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds structurally identified in claims 3 and 25 and the general idea underlying the application.

Claims searched completely: 3,14-22,25

Claims searched incompletely: 1,2,5,7-13,23,24,27

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No	
PCT/US 99/06396	

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9938498	A	05-08-1999	AU	1616599 A		16-08-1999
WO 9915159	A	01-04-1999	AU	9454098 A		12-04-1999
WO 9847518	A	29-10-1998	DE	19716120 A		22-10-1998
WO 9506470	A	09-03-1995	AU	7397094 A		22-03-1995
			US	5368404 A		29-11-1994